



TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINE WEEK HEADED TO SEATTLE IN AUGUST



Michael McGinn, mayor of Seattle, Wash., and Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of U.S. Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, announced Feb. 25 Marine Week is coming to Seattle Aug. 5-11. Marine Week is a celebration of community, country and Corps, and provides the unique experience to directly connect the American public and their Marines. "We are honored to host Marine Week 2013," said McGinn. "It is going to be a good opportunity for the people of Seattle to interact with our Marines and show our appreciation for those who serve and protect our country." Throughout the week,

Marines will be lending a hand to local residents through community service projects, and Seattleites will have the opportunity to climb aboard a variety of the Corps' aircraft and ground equipment; witness Marine Corps aircraft, martial arts, and working dog demonstrations; and take in the sights and sounds of the Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Corps Band. [Read more](#)

[Marine Week Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#)



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Asneak peak of what's to come as the Marines head to Seattle, Wash., Aug. 5-11 for the 5th annual Marine Week. *(Official Marine Corps Video)*



IN THE NEWS

2013 MARINE CORPS TRIALS BEGIN



The Marine Corps Trials kicked off Feb. 28, as 316 wounded warriors from around the globe came together to compete in the Olympic-style competition held through March 6. The Marine Corps Trials are open to all ill or injured Marines who are part of the Wounded Warrior Regiment. Athletes will have a chance to compete in eight different sports: archery, shooting, swimming, cycling, track, field, wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball. The athletes competing will represent one of four teams: East, West, Veterans and Allies. The 50 highest-placing athletes will be selected to compete on the All-Marine team at the Warrior Games in

Colorado Springs, Colo. May 11-17. [Read more](#)

CORPS' FIRST OPERATIONAL F-35B TAKES TO YUMA SKIES



The Marine Corps' first operational F-35B Lightning II flight was executed Feb. 21 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. "This flight was another important and successful milestone in the F-35 program and for the Green Knights of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 as we continue to build capability in the squadron and in the Marine Corps," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Scott, squadron commanding officer. VMFA-121 will be home to approximately 300 Marines and is expected to receive additional F-35s throughout the next eight to 12 months, with a total of 16 aircrafts scheduled to arrive by late 2013. [Read more](#)

MARINE GENERALS IN TOP JOBS



When U.S. and NATO top brass gathered in Kabul to mark a change in top leadership this month, all three generals lined up on stage were Marines. It's a historic moment for the Corps; the branch that didn't have its first four-star general until World War II now has six -- a record number -- serving in prominent positions around the world. The growing distinction of the Marine Corps is attributed to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars playing to the strength of Marine officers, as well as an emphasis on joint commands, providing Marines more opportunities to assume roles outside their service. [Read more](#)

COMMANDER THANKS COALITION, AFGHAN PARTNERS DURING I MEF FAREWELL DINNER



Maj. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the outgoing commander of Regional Command Southwest, held a farewell dinner Feb. 24 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Gurganus hosted more than 60 distinguished guests including Coalition and Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) as well as Afghan and civilian officials. Gurganus relinquished command to Maj. Gen. W. Lee Miller during a transfer of authority ceremony Feb. 28. Speaking to his guests, Gurganus highlighted the advances Coalition forces and ANSF have made. "The list of successes goes on for the things we got to witness during the past year," he said. "I'm extremely proud of

(Coalition) and Afghan forces." [Read more](#)

Also Read: Maj. Gen. Miller Takes Command

MARSOC CELEBRATES 7TH BIRTHDAY



U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC) celebrated its 7th birthday on Feb. 22, marking the Corps' growing commitment to special operations in the Global War on Terror. "We are a young organization. We are still growing, but we are no longer new," said Maj. Gen. Mark A. Clark. In the past year, MARSOC Marines and Sailors have received 135 valor medals, 112 combat action ribbons, and 25 purple hearts. MARSOC is currently commanding and supporting a Special Operations Task Force of Marines, Green Berets and SEALs in Afghanistan. [Read more](#)

RETIRED IED DOGS FIND NEW WORK, GOOD HOMES



Marine Corps' improvised explosive device (IED) detector dogs are making their own transitions to civilian life following active duty. Toro, an IED detector dog now living in Coryell County, Texas, is just one of



hundreds of canines that have been transferred to government agencies, state agencies, universities and local police departments. The four-year-old black Labrador retriever has been helpful in proving the presence of explosives, or lack thereof, in ongoing cases. "He has been a godsend to us," Deputy Doyle Dickens said. "He has been aiding the county in ways that we couldn't have imagined when we picked him up." [Read more](#)

USNS MONTFORD POINT TAKES ON LEGACY, LEADS NEW CLASS OF NAVY SHIPS



The Navy presented its first mobile landing platform March 2 -- the USNS Montford Point. Named after the first 20,000 African-American Marines trained at Camp Montford Point, Jacksonville, N.C., in 1942, the ship will serve as a 785-foot mobile pier, reducing American forces' dependency on foreign ports. It provides 25,000 square feet to house vehicles, equipment and 380,000 gallons of fuel. More than 30 original Montford Point Marines attended the ceremony along with Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps. [Read more](#)

FEMALE MARINES SHARE EXPERIENCES FROM 1943 TO PRESENT



Female Marines, past and present, gathered at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for lunch Feb. 27 to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. The Marines also celebrated the 90th birthday of Marge Alexander, who joined the very first day. "This is part of history," said Gunnery Sgt. Cesarina Hernandez. "If it wasn't for her, and women like her, there wouldn't be women Marines." Alexander and guests shared their experiences as female Marines, and also discussed current issues in the Corps. Following the luncheon, Alexander was given a guided tour of the museum. [Read more](#)

THE MAN BEHIND THE IWO JIMA PHOTO



Feb. 22 marked the 68th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima yet Norm Hatch, a retired Marine combat photographer, remembers the day of the historic Iwo Jima flag-raising photo like it was yesterday. Hatch corralled two men, Staff Sgt. Bill Genaust and Pfc. Bob Campbell, and ordered them to join the Marine detachment trudging to the summit of Suribachi to replace a smaller flag with a larger one. Within 36 hours, the photo was on the front page of hundreds of newspapers, and 68 years later its significance has not faded. Hatch turned 92 years old March 2. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

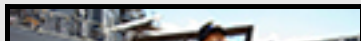
MARCH 4, 1801

The Marine Band performed at a Presidential Inauguration for the first time as Thomas Jefferson was sworn in.



SEMPER FI

HAWAII MARINES FULFILL YOUNG LEUKEMIA PATIENT'S WISH



Carl Hornbeak-Hess, an 11-year-old with acute lymphoblastic leukemia,



dreamed of being a World War II (WWII) Army Air Corps pilot whose aircraft is shot down and crash lands on a desert island. His dream became a reality with the help of Marines of the Combat Logistics Battalion 3. Through a partnership with Make-a-Wish Foundation, Hornbeak-Hess was able to experience an once-in-a-lifetime three-day excursion, including a convoy of WWII vehicles, a tour of Pearl Harbor, a promotion ceremony to first lieutenant of the Army Air Corps, and a simulated fight.

[Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps... the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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